

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

A server computer performing sensitive applications in an enterprise under the control of a single person provides an opportunity for fraud. A method and system are described for distributing responsibility to multiple individuals and enforcing this distribution with a computer program called a Key Repository process; a process designed to manage the trust relationships of an enterprise. It secures and manages the secrets of the enterprise, enforcing these trust relationships. Secrets are given only to pre-authorized applications. Public Key Infrastructure certificate management is handled centrally. All sensitive data is stored in encrypted form. Exposure of this data, as well as any change in a security-related parameter, is possible only with the approval of a pre-determined number of owners. The system is designed to accommodate a large number of application processes performing the work of the enterprise.